

U.S. Department of Justice

Stephen J. Murphy United States Attorney Eastern District of Michigan

Suite 2001 211 West Fort Street Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277 Fax: (313) 226-3561

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9193

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EVENT: Sentencing

Defendant: Dr. Hamid Taaid

MIDLAND DOCTOR INDICTED ON 119 COUNTS OF WIRE FRAUD

A Midland doctor has been indicted by a federal grand jury in Bay City and charged with billing Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) and Medicare for medical services that were never provided, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Dr. Hamid Taaid, 45, is a private physician at Mid Michigan Health Rehabilitation Service who specializes in rehabilitation medicine and pain management. Taaid appeared before a United States Magistrate Judge in Bay City yesterday where he was placed on an unsecured bond.

"This multi-agency investigation of a doctor accused of cheating Medicare and Blue Cross is an example of the excellent kind of teamwork that can occur in federal law enforcement when agencies work together," Murphy said. "Bilking the government and Blue Cross will not be tolerated."

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Daniel D. Roberts, FBI Special Agent in

Charge, and David Krupnick, Special Agent in Charge of Health and Human Services of Office of the Inspector General ("HHS-OIG").

The Indictment alleges that from November 2003 through July 2005, Dr. Taaid billed Medicare and BCBSM for medical services and procedures that had not been performed. In addition, Taaid billed Medicare and BCBSM for multiple and consecutive dates of service that were fraudulently generated from older patient records.

A convicted of the offense of wire fraud carries a maximum punishment of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney James Brunson.